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Why Not Make Your Own You?

In the article “Jennifer and Rachel” written by Lee M. Silver, the idea of the article was “Does it matter if cloning wrong or right?” The article came from an excerpt from a book published in 1988 called “Remaking Eden.” While reading the “Jennifer and Rachel”, Silver presented a couple of questions based on Jennifer’s situation. His questions made readers think about all the good and bad of what Jennifer would soon have to go through and deal with.. Although the article takes place in the future “2049,” this issue is actually occurring right now, today in the present. People try and find different ways of having children or becoming parents, being in numerous ways that they can’t have any children themselves.

The article Silver wrote focuses on a woman by the name of Jennifer in the year 2049. Jennifer is a single woman, who has come across her share of heterosexual relationships. Like some other women who have yet to come across that one person who she would actually consider settling down with and starting a family. Jennifer was in that same situation. Jennifer wanted that dream family with a husband and children, but if she couldn’t have them both she would at least get one of them. She had it all, a productive lifestyle with a very profitable apartment in an elegant neighborhood. Still at the end of the day Jennifer was still getting older and lonely as the days passed. Soon it would change for this single individual.

The morning of her 35th birthday Jennifer woke up to realized how lonely she actually was, and how she didn’t want to wait any more on having a child of her own. Realizing her biological clock was ticking and fears of her getting too old to produce children really worried Jennifer. Later that day she decided not to wait any longer and do something about her problem. She knew something had to be done to speed up the process and that came faster than expected. Being financially stable, and since the use of two donors was not needed anymore, Jennifer could become a mother on her own. Using her own cells to birth her child, resulted into her giving birth to her very own clone. By this time all types of new technology and medical research had been discovered, making it possible for Jennifer to start her own family. This made her excited.

Although cloning humans was not legal in the United States, Jennifer still had a way having her own child. She took time off and vacationed to Grand Cayman Island and visited their reprogenetic clinic where the procedure would take place. Paying 80,000 dollars for the procedure, they took unfertilized eggs from Jennifer and inserted cells scraped from the inside of her cheek into them. Soon the embryos were observed to be growing healthy, two are picked to be placed back into Jennifer’s womb. After she vacations for a couple more days, she soon goes back to her home. A couple weeks later Jennifer receives some good news, she is pregnant. 9 months later she gives birth to a baby girl by the name of Rachel without any defects included.

In Silver’s article many people had their own opinion about the whole cloning situation. Daniel Callahan, the director of the Hastings Center (bioethics think tank near New York City), argues that “engineering someone’s entire genetic makeup would compromise his or her right to a unique identity.” Dr. Callahan states that no such right has been granted by nature, and identical twins are born every day as natural clones of one another. Still, Dr. Callahan could argue that twins occur naturally does not mean we should create them on purpose. Even though Rachel has the same genes as Jennifer doesn’t necessarily mean that her life will turn out the same as her mother’s. The New York Times columnist William Safire totally argues against cloning, thinking it will harm society in a way. Mr. Safire argues that if it continues interplay of genes is central to humankind’s progress. Both H.G. Wells and Kurt Vonnegut both disagree with Safire on his explanation. H.G. Wells believed the human like process has no type of involvement with unfettered evolution, in which is not necessarily upward bound. Kurt Vonnegut disagrees because the future humans with smaller brains and powerful flippers will remnants of a once great species. Silver had stated great points in this article that makes someone sit and wonder.

Work Cited

Silver, Lee M. “Jennifer and Rachel,” Remaking Eden: Cloning in a Brave New World Beyond (1988,): 117-125 RPT in Writing in the Disciplines: A reader and Rhetoric for Academic writers, 6th ed. Mary Lynch Kennedy and William J. Kennedy, Boston: Pearson 2009. 340-346. Print.